

Remarks

The Examiner has objected to claims 5, 15, 26 and 36 for containing informalities. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 10-18, 20-29 and 31-39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fang et al., United States Patent No. 6,536,542 (hereinafter "Fang") in view of Thermosetting Cellular Elastomers Reinforced with Carbon Black and Silica Nonoparticles (hereinafter "Galezewkski"). The Examiner has objected to claims 9, 19, 30 and 40 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-40 were originally filed. Claims 3, 9, 19, 30 and 40 have been cancelled by way of the present Response. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-18, 20-29 and 31-39 are currently pending, of which, claims 1, 11, 22 and 32 are in independent form. Favorable consideration of the present Response as currently constituted is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 9, 19, 30 and 40 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any

intervening claims. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowability of the subject matter of claims 9, 19, 30 and 40.

Objection to Claim Informalities

The Examiner has objected to claims 5, 15, 26 and 36 for containing informalities. Specifically, the Examiner has stated that acronyms are not acceptable claim language. Applicant has amended claims 5, 15, 26 and 36 to replace the acronyms with the full names of the materials. Accordingly, applicant believes the basis of objected to claims 5, 15, 26 and 36 has been overcome and requests withdrawal of these objections.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 10-18, 20-29 and 31-39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fang in view of Galezewkski. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, 22 and 32 to respectively incorporate the limitations of claims 9, 19, 30 and 40. Accordingly, applicant believes that claims 1, 11, 22 and 32 are in condition for allowance. All other claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) down depend from an allowable claim and are therefore also allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allowance of claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-18, 20-29 and 31-39.

Fee Statement

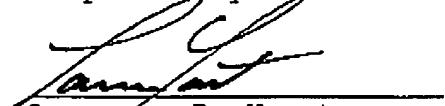
The total number of claims has been reduced by way of the present Response. The total number of independent claims has remained the same by way of the present Response. Applicant believes no additional fees are due for the filing of this Response. If any additional fees are due or overpayment have been made, please charge or credit, our Deposit Account No. 03-1130.

Conclusion

In view of the forgoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-18, 20-29 and 31-39 presented for consideration herein. Accordingly, a favorable action in the form of an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2005.

Respectfully submitted:



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